

REMARKS

Claims 11-22 are pending.

Applicants note that a ribboned copy of the priority document is still required. Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith a ribboned copy of the priority document in order to perfect priority.

Claim 13 was objected to for a spelling error. Applicants have corrected the spelling error and therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner listed several concerns. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims to address the concerns of the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that all claims now fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murphy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,407,885).

Claims 11, 13 and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,401,564).

Claims 11 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended the claims so that the claims now refer to fiber strands as opposed to fiber cords. This is consistent with the terms used in U.S. Patent No. 6,372,294, which is based on DE-A-4121915, which is also cited in the present application. It is respectfully submitted that if a cord is a yarn as defined in "Understanding Textiles" cited by the Examiner, then fiber strands is more accurate with regard to the present invention.

With regard to the Examiner's concerns regarding pulverized duroplastic or pulverized inorganic material, it is respectfully submitted that these terms were in original claim 4 that was present in the application as filed. As the Examiner is aware, the pressure impregnation in accordance with the present invention is carried out with a bath in which thermoplastic particles are disbursed. Into such a bath, particles may also be added that are pulverized duroplastic or pulverized inorganic material.

With regard to the rejection of the claims in view of the prior art, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention discloses a composite material with fibers and plastic impregnation that is not anticipated by any of the cited references nor is it rendered obvious by their combination. It is respectfully submitted that Murphy discloses an assembly including thermoplastic fibrous material (not particles) intermixed with reinforcing fibrous material. This is not an article of a really extended fiber and plastic composite material including impregnations as clearly recited in the claims.

Furthermore, in accordance with the present invention, the stiffness of the strands is provided by the content of impregnating particles. Strands with fine fibers receive more impregnating material than strands with coarse fibers. In Lee, the stiffness of the strands is provided by the stiffness of the reinforcing fibrous material and not the amount of impregnating material received.

Finally, none of the cited references disclose that the composite material is stiff in a direction of the fibers of a first array of fibers and is flexible transversely to the direction.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that another references, either alone or in combination, teach, disclose or even suggest an areally extended composite material as recited in the claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11-22 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is urged. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of this case in any way, please call the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1 11. (Amended) An areally extended composite material including
2 fibers and plastic impregnations, the material comprising at least two arrays of parallel
3 fiber strands[cords], the two arrays extending in different directions, forming a web,
4 mesh or grid, wherein the fibers of the first array are impregnated with[substantially]
5 more plastic than the fibers of a second array such that the composite material is stiff in a
6 direction of the fibers of the first array and is flexible transversely to said direction, and
7 wherein openings exist[s] between the fiber strands[cords].

1 12. (Amended) An areally extended composite material in accordance
2 with claim 11 wherein the fiber strands[cords] are one of either a bundle[-like] or band[-
3 like].

1 13. (Amended) An areally extended composite material in accordance
2 with claim 11 wherein the fibers of the first array are impregnated with[substantially]
3 more plastic than[then] the fibers of a third array.

1 14. (Amended) An areally extended composite material in accordance
2 with claim 11 wherein the composite material is built up through two arrays of fiber
3 strands[cords] that cross at binding points and thus form one of a web or a mesh.

1 15. (Amended) An areally extended composite material in accordance
2 with claim 11 wherein the fiber strands[cords] of the first array have an impregnation
3 that, in relation to a maximum capacity of plastic that is possible to [may] be taken up,
4 [amounts to] is at least 35%, and wherein the impregnation of fiber strands[cords] of a
5 third array is less than 20%.

1 16. (Amended) An areally extended composite material in accordance
2 with claim 15 wherein the impregnation of the fiber strands[cords] of the third array is
3 less than 5%.

1 19. (Amended) An areally extended composite material in accordance
2 with claim 11 wherein the fibers of the first array have a[substantially] smaller diameter
3 than the fibers of the second array.

1 20. (Amended) An areally extended composite material in accordance
2 with claim 19 wherein the fibers of the first array have a[substantially] smaller diameter
3 than the fibers of a third array.